

THE PETITION

OF THE
LORDS and COMMONS
of Parliament Assembled at Oxford,
presented to His Majesty the day
before the Recess.

AND
HIS MAJESTIES
Gracious Answer to the same.

WITH
His Majesties Protestation formerly made in the
Head of His Army, and now again reprinted at
the desire and by the Advice of both
Houses.

CHARLES R.

Our expresse Pleasure is, That this Petition,
with Our Answer and Protestation, be read by
the Parson, Vicar or Curate, in every Church and
Chappell within Our Kingdom of England and Do-
minion of Wales.

BRISTOLL,

Printed by ROBERT BARKER, and JOHN
BILL, Printers to the Kings most Excel-
lent Majesty: M DC. XLIII. April

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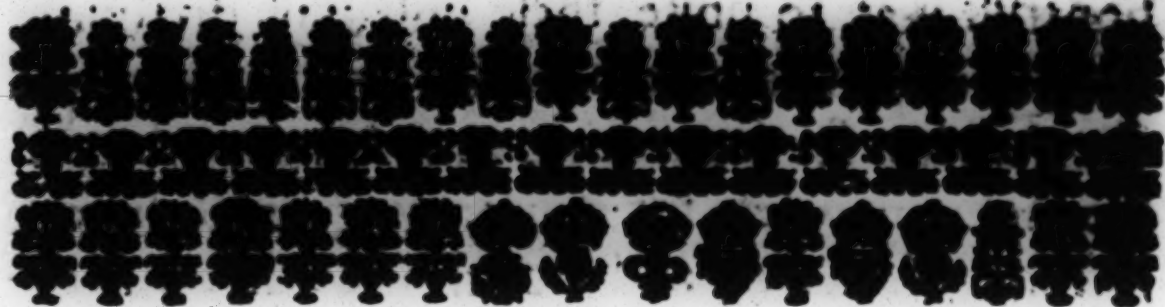
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TO
The *KING'S* most Excellent
M A J E S T Y.

The humble Petition of the Lords and
Commons of Parliament Assembled at *Oxford*
according to Your Majesties
Proclamation.

WE most humbly acknowledge Your
Princely goodnesse in calling us, to
receive our Advices for preservation
of the Religion, Laws, and safety of
the Kingdom, and to restore it to its
former Peace and Security; How
earnestly we have sought a Peace with Your Ma-
jesties most gracious concurrence, doth appear by
the Printed Declaration of our proceedings touch-
ing a Treaty for Peace, wherein we aymed at a free
and full convention of Parliament, as the most
hopefull

hopefull way to unite these unhappy divisions;
And since that hath been refused, we have applied
our Advice for supporting your Armies, the visi-
ble means now left for maintaining our Religion,
restoring the Laws, and procuring the safety of the
Kingdom: being assured from Your Majesty You
do and will imploy Your Armies to no other end.

And although our selves are most fully satisfied
of Your Majesties pious and just resolutions herein,
yet because Fears and Jealousies have been, and are
maliciously scattered amongst Your Subjects, to
poyson their affections, and corrupt their Loyalty to
Your Majesty: Therefore, to the end we may be
enabled by Your gracious Answer to satisfie all the
World, or to leave them unexcusable who will not
be satisfied, We do in all humility present to Your
Majesty these Petitions;

That Your Majesty will give direction for the
reprinting Your Protestation made in the head of
Your Army, and Your other Declarations, where-
in Your constant Resolution is declared to main-
tain and defend the true reformed Protestant Reli-
gion, and that the same may be with more diligence
published amongst the People; that so your Prince-
ly Christian zeal and affection to that Religion, and
to maintain the same against all Popery, Schisme,
and

and Prophanesse; may be manifested, and which we beseech Your Majesty upon this our Petition to declare again to all the World, to the discountenance and suppression of those scandals laid upon Your Majesty by those who disturb our Peace.

That when there may be a full and free convention of Parliament, a Nationall Synod may be lawfully called; to advise of some fit means for the establishing the Government and Peace of our Church; to whom may be recommended a care for the ease of the tender Consciences of Your Protestant Subjects.

Touching our Laws, we cannot ask more of Your Majesty, then to declare and continue Your former Resolutions, to hold and keep them inviolable and unalterable, but by Act of Parliament.

And for avoyding the scandall maliciously infused into many of Your Subjects, That if Your Majesty prevaile against this Rebellion, You intend not to use the frequent Councell of Parliaments: We humbly Pray and Advise Your Majesty to declare the sincerity of Your Royall heart therein, to satisfie Your seduced Subjects against such false and malicious aspersions.

And in respect the present Contributions, Lones, Taxes, and other Impositions for maintenance of Your Armies, have been submitted unto, as exigences of Warre and necessity, because of this unexampled Rebellion and Invasion: We humbly beseech Your Majesty to Declare, That they shall not be drawn into example, nor continue longer then the present exigence and necessity, not be at any time mentioned as Precedents. And that for the further security of Your People, Your Majesty will vouchsafe to promise Your Royall assent to a Law to be made and declared to that purpose in a full and free Convention of Parliament.

And that for the present ease and encouragement of those under Contributions by contract with Your Majesty, You will be pleased that those contracts may be so observed, that Your Subjects may not have just cause of complaint against the Commanders, Governors, Officers, or Souldiers of Your Army, or of or in any Your Garrisons, Castles, or Forts, for taking any Money, Horses, or other Carrell, Provisions or other goods, or any Timber or Woods of any Your Subjects, or Free-Billet or Free-Quarter in any place where the
Con-

Contributions and Taxes agreed on are paid;
Humbly beseeching Your Majesties gracious Care
herein, and that the Offenders may receive exem-
plary punishment.

Lastly, that Your Majesty will retain Your
pious endeavours to procure the Peace of this
languishing Kingdom not to be removed or al-
tered by any advantages or prosperous success.

H I S

H I S M A J E S T I E S
 Gracious Answer to the afore said
P E T I T I O N.



And we shall alwayes acknowledge the great Comfort and assistance we have received by your Counsels, since your meeting here according to Our Proclamation; so we must give you very particular Thanks for the Expressions you have made in this Petition, of your Confidence in Us; and for the Care you have therein taken, that all Our good Subjects may receive ample satisfaction in those things upon which the good and well fare of their Condition so much depends.

We have long observed (though not without Wonder) the slye, subtle, and groundlesse Insinuation infused and dispersed amongst Our People, by the disturbers of the

the utmost Power of Our Saviouring and
 Redemption, as in Our constant, visible practice we
 have, to the utmost of Our Power (and we
 hope sufficiently) manifested the great
 falshood of those Imputations and Scandals,
 so we have omitted no opportunity
 of publishing to all the world, the clear Su-
 tentions and Resolutions of Our Soul in
 that point. We wish from Our heart, That
 the true Reformed Protestant Religion
 may not receive greater Blemish by the
 Actions and practice of these men, then it
 doth or shall by any Consequence of Ours :
 we will take the best care we can (and we
 desire your assistance in it) to publish to all
 Our good Subjects, that Our Protection,
 and those Declarations you mention, And we
 do assure you, there is not an expression in
 either of them, for the maintenance and ad-
 vancement of Our Religion, with which
 Our heart doth not fully concur, and in
 which we shall be so constant, That if it
 shall not please God to enable us by force
 to defend it, we shall shew Our Affection
 and Love to it by dying for it. we may
 without

without bandy say, It hath pleased God to enlighten Our understanding, to scatter the dark Truth of the Protestant Religion, in which we have been born and bred, from the Mists and Clouds of Popery, the which (if it hath made any growth or progresse of late within the Kingdom, as we hope it hath not) is more beholden to the unchristian rage and fury of these men, then to any countenance or favour of Ours.

For a Nationall Synod we have often promised it, and when God shall give so much Peace and quiet to this Kingdom, that regular and Lawfull Conventions may be esteemed, shall gladly perform that Promise, as the best means to rectify Our Religion, and make up those Breaches which are made; And we shall then willingly recommend unto them a speciall care of the care of tender Consciences of Our Protestant Subjects, as we have often expressed.

For the Laws of the Land, we can say no more then we have said in that Protestation you mention, and we thank you for being satisfied with it; In which God knows

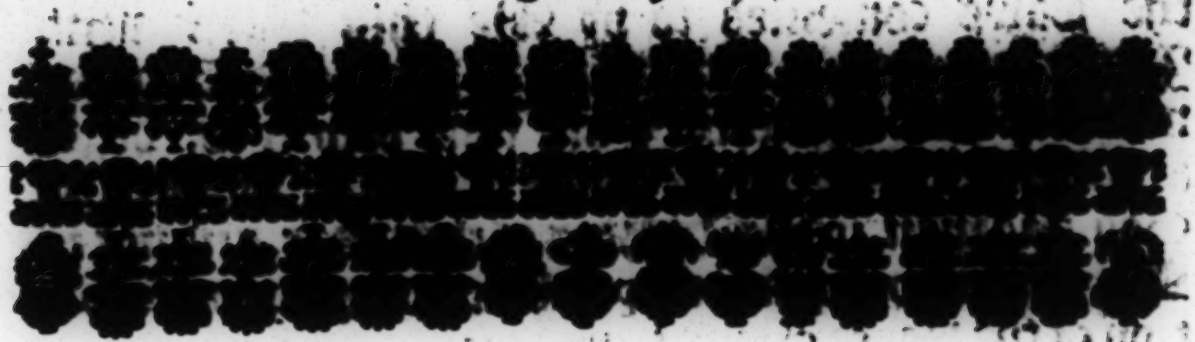
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knowing Our resolution to be so firm and
fixed, that we will give any security un-
der Heaven for the observation of it. And
as Our greatest desire as this present is, to
meet in a full and free Convention of Par-
liament, which we are confident would
quickly put an end to all these troubles; So,
when it shall please God to restore that bles-
sing to Us, we shall value and esteem that
Council, and frequently consult with it,
and be advised by it, as the best means to
make both King and People truly happy;
And we shall then by an Act given wipe
out the Foot-steps of those extraordinary
Supplies, which nothing but this real
visible necessity, which oppresses Us all,
could have compelled Us to make use of, and
which shall never be mentioned or remem-
bered by Us, to the least prejudice of your
Rights and Liberties. And in the mean
time, we shall leave nothing undone for the
observation of particular contracts, and
prevention of the disorder and license of the
Souldier which is in Our Power to do, no
particular Person enduring half that sad-
ness of heart for those Breaches and Pre-
sures,

tures, which we Our self do. For the prevention and suppression whereof we shall proceed with all Rigour and Severity.

Lastly, As the support and maintenance of the Religion, Liberties and Priviledges of Parliament, is (as you well know) the only Argument of Our defensive Arms; so those being secured, we shall with all imaginable Joy lay down those Arms; and as you have been Our witnesses and Our Assistants in Our earnest desires of Peace, so we promise you, we shall not onely with the same earnestnesse alwayes embrace it, if it shall be offered, but pursue and presse it upon the least likelihood or Opportunity. And this Our Resolution, by Gods Blessing, shall never be altered by any Advantages or prosperous Successes.

HIS



HIS MAJESTIES PROTESTATION



I do promise in the presence of Almighty God, and as I hope for his blessing and Protection, That I will to the utmost of my Power, defend and maintain the true reformed Protestant Religion established in the Church of England, and by the grace of God in the same will live and dye. I desire to govern by the known Laws of the Land, and that the Liberty and Property of the Subject may be by them preserved with the same care as my own just Rights. And if it please God by his blessing upon this Army, raised for my necessary defence, to preserve Me from this Rebellion, I do solemnly and faithfully promise in the sight of God, to maintain the just Priviledges and freedom of Parliament, and to govern by the known Laws of the Land to my utmost power; and particularly to observe inviolably the

the Lawes consented to by ~~the~~ this Parliament, ~~At the same time~~, if this time of need, and the great necessity and Circumstances I am now fallen to, beget any violation of those, I hope it ~~shall~~ be imputed by God and man to the Authors of the same, and not to ~~me~~, who have so earnestly laboured for the preservation of the Peace of this Kingdom.

When I willingly fall in these particulars, I will expect no ayd or relief from any man, or protection from Heaven. But in this Resolution I hope for the Cheerfull assistance of all good men, and am confident of Gods blessing.

FINIS.
